

"OPINION IN THE CAPITAL"—INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR DODD

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. President, on Sunday, March 14, 1965, the regular "Opinion in the Capital" program, originating on channel 6, in Washington, D.C., carried an interview with the distinguished senior Senator from Connecticut [Mr. Dodd], by Mark Evans, vice president for public affairs for Metromedia, Inc., and Jack Bell, chief Senate correspondent of the Associated Press.

I watched the program, personally, and was once again impressed by the calm and knowledgeable manner in which the Senator from Connecticut dispenses common sense on many of the major issues of our day, particularly the situation in Vietnam, concerning which the Senator from Connecticut has spoken so eloquently and wisely on the floor of the Senate of the United States.

For those who may not have had an opportunity to view this program, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a transcript of the interview be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the interview was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

OPINION IN THE CAPITAL

(Produced by Florence Lowe, a Metropolitan Broadcasting television production, 8 p.m., March 14, 1965)

Guest: Senator THOMAS DODD, Democrat, of Connecticut.

Reporters: Mark Evans, vice president for public affairs for Metromedia, Inc., Jack Bell, chief Senate correspondent, Associated Press.

Mr. EVANS. Jack, with a man with as many varied interests as Senator Dodd, I'm sure we're in for a windfall. Why don't you begin?

FIREARMS

Mr. BELL. Senator, are you prepared to go as far as the President as suggested in his message on crime in dealing with this gun situation?

Senator Dodd. Yes, I am now. I started out with just handguns. That's what I originally proposed. I then amended it to include the long gun; the rifle, the shotgun. I'm now prepared to say "Let's bar all mail-order traffic in guns." Because the situation has worsened progressively. I say we're at a point where we ought to put an end to all of it.

Mr. EVANS. You've been a "John the Baptist" sort of fellow, crying in the wilderness for a long time, Senator. Did you sell the President on the idea?

Senator Dodd. No, no. I wish I could take credit for that. I do feel that our committee did some educational work generally with the public: we held hearings; we conducted investigations; the staff did a great amount of work, and all of this, I hope, contributed to the President's better understanding of the menace we're facing.

Mr. BELL. Senator, you're a hunter. Is this going to affect hunters materially?

Senator Dodd. No. You're quite right, I've been a hunter, I own guns. I'm not against legitimate sports activity I'm for it. But I see nothing in this proposal or the bill which I've introduced, which will in any way, impair the legitimate sportsman.

NARCOTICS

Mr. EVANS. Many of these bills that you've been fostering for a long time now Senator

are coming to the floor and it looks as though something might happen. The House, last week, passed a unanimous decision on the "goofball" bill which has been very much in your mind. Are you expecting success on this too?

Senator Dodd. Oh sure. The Senate passed that bill last year unanimously. It was the bill I introduced in the Senate. Congressman HARRIS took it up in the House, did a good job with it. No one deserves any particular credit. These things only needed emphasis, education, as far as the public was concerned. They needed to be done, and they are getting done.

Mr. EVANS. There has been much said in the past, of the British system in allocating narcotics. I know that you've studied this long and hard. Do you have any feelings on the British system? Does it have anything in its favor?

Senator Dodd. I have this feeling. I think that we should really take the approach that they do with respect to the narcotic addict. I think he's truly a sick man. Some of them get into criminal activities and this has to be dealt with separately. But, generally they ought to be viewed as ill people.

Mr. BELL. What about the problem of marihuana as far as young people are concerned?

Senator Dodd. I think we're right about marihuana. There's a big argument about this I know. There are those who say there is nothing really addictive about it. That it's just a step beyond tobacco or something of that sort. The best information I get is that this is not so. That it is addictive, that it is damaging, that it leads to other addictions—more serious. Like heroin.

Mr. BELL. Is there anything about marihuana that's been official—that we need it in a "drug" sense?

Senator Dodd. Not that I know of. I don't know of any.

Mr. EVANS. You said that these people are sick, Senator. Do you mean by that that these people should be able to go to the drug store with a doctor's prescription and be—

Senator Dodd. That's what the British do. I have some misgivings about that in our society. There are differences in our society and the British—the British police officer doesn't carry a gun. I can't imagine what would happen in this country if we took guns away from all our police officers. They seem to do better with some things—maybe they can do better with—for some reasons I can't describe. I don't know.

But, it seems for us, anyway, unwise to me to allow the narcotic addict to get a prescription, go in and take care of his habit in that way. I'd rather see them hospitalized, treated, eased back into life through the use of stopover houses. I think there are a lot of things we can do short of allowing them to get drugs freely.

VIETNAM

Mr. BELL. Senator, I'd like to get into Vietnam at this point: You've recently made a strong statement in the Senate in favor of President Johnson's course there. Since you made that statement that war has been even more escalated. Do you favor a continuation of the escalation of that war?

Senator Dodd. I said on other occasions, Jack, and I'll repeat it here. I'm not a military man. It's difficult for me to answer a question of that kind. I think that really is a question that the President can answer after consulting with his top military technicians and strategists. I think it's fair to point out that the escalation hasn't been initiated by us. It's the Communists that have escalated the war. What do we do to cause them to withdraw from their aggression in Vietnam? Well, the President obviously feels that we have got to give them some of the same medicine they've been dishing out to the free Vietnamese. How much—how far? I truly don't know the

answer to that. I suppose the President would say as much as it takes to get them to cease and desist from their aggression, subversion, infiltration.

Mr. EVANS. From your speech, Senator, I get the feeling you feel the Red Chinese will not come to the aid of the North Vietnamese with troops. You also pointed out that they are too vulnerable on the coast with their industrial cities.

Senator Dodd. This is a risky judgment. Who can say? It seems that way to me from all I can learn about their situation—their geographical situation, their economic situation, their differences with the Moscow Communists, all add up to me, to an unlikelyhood that they would take us on if I may put it that way in an all-out struggle. I don't think that will happen, but I could be proved wrong in the next minute. You've got to take risks in life—you've got to take risks to protect freedom. We can't just sit back and worry all the time. "If we do this, that will happen to us"—get into a state of do-nothingness. I think all of life is risks—freedom and we've got to take some of those risks.

Mr. BELL. You made the point in your speech that our intelligence is not very good in South Vietnam. How are we going to know when the point has been reached where the Communists are about to give up, or are at least in retreat?

Senator Dodd. I guess again, that we would hear through so-called neutral sources, friends, I assume, I'm confident that those channels are open. When they are ready to say "uncle" we'll hear it loud and clear. Will we see it in the military sense? I suppose so. I think we ought to know the result of their reprisals on our attacks—economic centers, military centers. I think we ought to know that. I think we ought to hear—I hope our intelligence improves and I think it is improving. I think it's better than it was, from what I'm told.

Mr. EVANS. I think one of the most enlightened statements in your speech is where you indicated that one of our problems has been a rotation of our own leadership and you also pointed out that in the 5 years, there have been 10 or 12 topflight men who have made real inroads, friendshipwise, with the political leaders, religious leaders, and military leaders and you're going to write a letter to the President urging that these 10 or 12 men be sent back there to see if we could bind all the forces together. Have you done that?

Senator Dodd. Yes, I wrote to the President—I have also talked to some of his top staff people. The President has written back and answered my letter. He said in effect, he thought there was something to it. He was looking into it and so on. I think it received consideration and is receiving consideration. In the letter, I don't think I mentioned any names but in personal conversation I did. I don't want to do that here because it won't be fair to those individuals. Sometimes I find that there are personality conflicts and this is the most regrettable thing of all. It seems to me that the stakes are so high that we can't afford to dwell on personalities and their difficulties. If there are more than two involved it seems to me they ought to be able to submerge what personal differences they have. If competence of an unusual character is involved and it is in some of these people, they ought to go back, and they want to go back, and they could be helpful if they went back.

Mr. BELL. One of your colleagues, Senator Young of Ohio, called for the replacement of General Taylor as our ambassador. Are you satisfied with Taylor operations there?

Senator Dodd. Yes, I have a very high opinion of General Taylor. I think he's a wonderful man. I don't know him well really, but I've observed him at committee hearings and I've had a few contacts with